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Richard Adams Locke - The Moon Hoax

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## The Moon Hoax Richard Adams Locke (1800 - 1871)

This hoax, subtitled "A Discovery that the Moon Has a Vast Population of Human Beings," was originally serialized in 1835 in the New York Sun newspaper. It purported itself to be a true account that had been published in the Edinburgh Journal of Science. Sir John Herschel, a well-known astronomer at the time, was credited with authorship.

Herschel's telescope, according to the story, was able to see man-bats and other animals, as well as a variety of geographical features, on the surface of the moon. The article was published at a time when newspapers were read as much for entertainment as for news. It was not uncovered as a hoax until weeks after its publication, and the paper never printed a retraction.

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